

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 819

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the House has lost confidence in the performance of Consumer Product Safety Commission Chairwoman Nancy Nord, and urging the President to request her resignation.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 13, 2007

Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Ms. HOOLEY, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. HARE, Mr. HOLT, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. CARDOZA, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. COURTNEY, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. WELCH of Vermont, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. CAPUANO, Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. DICKS, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. KAGEN, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. SPACE, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HALL of New York, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. WYNN, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. LEE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. OLVER, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. LOEBACK, Mr. WILSON of Ohio, Mr. COHEN, Ms. WATSON, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. FILNER, Mr. STARK, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. WU, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. NADLER, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Mr. FARR, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. LAMPSON, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. BACA, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. KIND, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. REYES, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. LORETTA

SANCHEZ of California, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Ms. WATERS, Mr. WEXLER, and Ms. WOOLSEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the House has lost confidence in the performance of Consumer Product Safety Commission Chairwoman Nancy Nord, and urging the President to request her resignation.

Whereas the mission of the Consumer Product Safety Commission is to protect the public against unreasonable risks of injury associated with consumer products;

Whereas, since 1974, the first year the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) went into operation, United States imports have quadrupled, and the CPSC is responsible for overseeing more than 15,000 types of products, yet it now operates with approximately 400 staffers, fewer than half the number of staff when the agency was established;

Whereas 80 percent of the toys Americans buy are Chinese imports, and in recent months more than 25 million toys manufactured in China were recalled because of lead paint and other hazards;

Whereas, instead of prioritizing and addressing serious threats to public health or dealing with the CPSC's own limitations, Commission Chairwoman Nancy Nord stubbornly pushes back and actively opposes legislation to grant the CPSC much needed authority and resources;

Whereas Federal employees in regulatory agencies are generally prohibited from receiving any “gift,” including payment or reimbursement of travel expenses, from someone who is seeking action from, doing business with, or regulated by that agency, or whose interests may be substantially affected by the performance or nonperformance of an employee’s official duties;

Whereas prohibiting gifts to Federal employees is aimed at preventing a government employee from becoming beholden to anyone in the private sector who might affect the independence or judgment of that employee;

Whereas Chairwoman Nord and her predecessor, Hal Stratton, took nearly 30 trips at the expense of the toy, appliance, and children’s furniture industries who had interests before the Commission, and the airfares, hotels, and meals of such trips totaled nearly \$60,000;

Whereas the CPSC made travel bookings before the trips were approved and the CPSC’s ethics official traveled with the chairwoman as a guest of a regulated industry;

Whereas Chairwoman Nord was reported to have taken a trip totaling \$3,730 to San Francisco in 2005 sponsored by the Toy Industry Foundation, an association that represents the makers of 85 percent of the toys sold in the United States;

Whereas Chairwoman Nord was reported to have taken a trip in February 2006, which was paid for by the Toy Industry Association to attend the American International Toy Fair in New York;

Whereas, in February, Chairwoman Nord accepted more than \$2,000 in travel and accommodations from the Defense Research Institute to attend its meeting in New Orleans

on “product litigation trends,” according to the agency’s internal records;

Whereas the CPSC Inspector General Christopher W. Dentel has asserted that he will take steps to see to it that the relevant records detailing travel expenses are secured and an investigation initiated; and

Whereas Chairwoman Nord is the wrong person to lead the CPSC as its chief regulator as she has chosen to side with the companies that manufacture these dangerous products rather than protect America’s consumers: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
- 2 (1) has lost confidence in Consumer Product
- 3 Safety Commission Chairwoman Nancy Nord; and
- 4 (2) urges the President to request her resigna-
- 5 tion and to nominate a new candidate to head the
- 6 Consumer Product Safety Commission.

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